

MARY ANN ELIZABETH WATERS

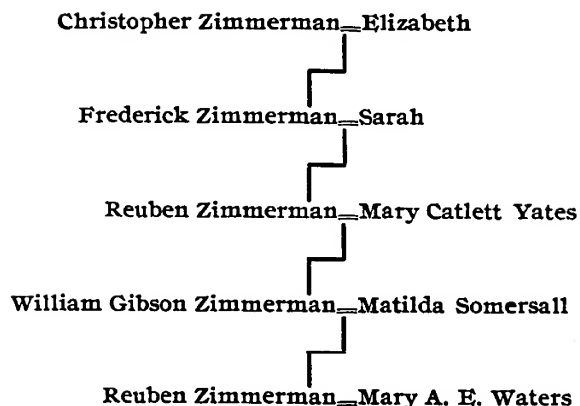


REUBEN ZIMMERMAN

ZIMMERMAN

“ What thanks O God to Thee are due
That Thou didst plant our fathers here !” — *Flint*

ZIMMERMAN



This record of our German ancestors which goes back no further than their arrival in Virginia, is the result of an examination of the records of Spottsylvania and Culpeper Counties, Va., and numerous notes copied from other sources.

As will be seen from an extract given later on, our ancestor, **Christopher Zimmerman**, arrived in Virginia in 1717.

The General Assembly of Virginia passed the following act in 1714: "No. 2. Act to exempt certain German protestants from the payment of levies for seven years and for erecting the Parish of St. George, A. D., 1714. Whereas, certain German Protestants to the number of forty-two persons or thereabouts have been settled above the falls of the River Rappahannock, on the southern branch of the said river called Rapidan, at a place called Germanna in the county of Essex, and have there begun to build and make improvements for their cohabitation to the great advantage of this colony and the security of the frontiers in those parts from the intrusions of the Indians—for the encouragement therefore of the said Germans in their infant settlement," etc., etc. The act goes on to state that they shall be exempt from the payment of levies and taxes for the space of seven years, provided they continue at the said settlement, Germanna, but if they depart from it, they

shall be assessed as are all his Majesty's subjects. Of this colony, Mr. Willis Kemper, in his genealogy of the Kemper family gives an extended account, and says, they "seemed to enjoy the favor of the Governor and the ruling powers from the beginning, and were granted exceptional privileges,—although some, if not all of the later German colonies to that province seem to have been treated with considerable hardship."

On Oct. 2, 1719, the following petition was laid before the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts: "The case of thirty-two Protestant German families settled in Virginia, humbly sheweth: that twelve Protestant German families, consisting of about fifty persons arrived April, 1714, in Virginia and were therein settled near the Rappahannock River. That in 1717, seventeen Protestant German families, consisting of about four score persons came and set down near their countrymen, and many more, both German and Swiss families are likely to come here and settle likewise. That for the enjoyment of the ministries of religion there will be the necessity of building a small church in the place of their settlement, and of maintaining a minister, who shall catechise, read and perform divine offices among them in the German tongue which is the only language they do yet understand."

In the first order book of Spottsylvania Co., Va., on file at the Court House (1724), can be found the record that fixes the time of the arrival in this country of our German ancestor, Christopher Zimmerman. "On petition of Christopher Zimmerman in order to prove his right to take up land according to the Royal Charter, made oath, that he came into this country in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven Hundred and Seventeen, and that he brought Elizabeth, his wife, and John and Andrew, his children, with him and that this is the first time of his proveing their said importations, whereupon certificate is ordered to be granted him of Right to take up Two Hundred Acres of land." April 11, 1726. p. 107. This places him as one of the band mentioned previously as landing at that date (1717) on the Rappahannock River, Va. It was not the intention of this band to go to Virginia. The Rev. W. H. Hinke of Philadelphia gives the note from a document in his possession that proves this. "Hanover, 1737. In the year 1717 a small number of Evangelical Lutheran Christians from the Alsace, Palatinate and neighboring places (whose intention it was to go to Pennsylvania), were compelled to settle, through an unfortunate voyage, at the ex-

treme borders of the province of Virginia in the County of Spottsylvania after having passed through severe trials during the first eight years." From Mr. Hinke is obtained the information that our ancestor was probably from Württemberg, as a Moravian missionary who visited the Lutheran colonists in Madison Co., Virginia, in 1748, says in his diary that most of the Germans there were from the Lutheran State of Württemberg in Southern Germany. Our ancestors were scattered between the three or four adjacent countries by that date, so no exact conclusion can be drawn from this statement.

Of the band of Evangelical Lutherans who arrived in 1717, and of the "small church" built in Madison county by these devoted Christians, an interesting account is written, entitled, *History of Hebron Lutheran Church, Madison Co., Va.* Author, the Rev. W. V. Huddle, Pastor. Copious extracts from this book are here given, but the whole volume is well worthy of a careful reading by the descendants of Christopher Zimmerman, one of the founders and trustees of this church. This small band of Germans founded a congregation that still flourishes in Madison County and we have reason to be proud of our ancestor's share in it, and devotion to his faith, amid such—as we believe—adverse surroundings. To quote from Mr. Huddle: "The cause of their (the band of 1717) emigration to this country is found in these words, 'on account of the then, well known severe persecutions.' Not being able to determine the provinces from which they came, the conditions under which they lived, civil and religious, can be described only in a general way. At the close of the seventeenth and the beginning of the eighteenth centuries, deplorable conditions prevailed in Germany. The hardships and sufferings of the masses of the people were almost too great for endurance. The wars of Louis XIV. and that of the Spanish Succession had well nigh exhausted Germany and especially those provinces along the Rhine. In addition to the effects of war, the extravagance, cruelty and despotism of the rulers, the contentions that existed between the different confessions of religion followed by intolerance and persecution—all these were more or less felt throughout Germany—so that the lot of her citizens became exceedingly hard to bear. The general misery became so great that many Protestants—especially from the upper provinces of the Rhine—emigrated to America rather than continue to live under such conditions. Among those who emigrated from Germany we find the colony of 1717." pp. 6, 7. "What has been said of other German immi-

grants is certainly true of these. They were a 'hardy, industrious and honest people,' and their descendants still show the same characteristics. They were also a religious people. They brought with them 'their Bibles, hymn books and a few devotional works.' And though settled in a strange land and denied the privilege of having the Gospel preached among them, they did not forget to worship the God of their fathers. Their persistent efforts to have a pastor among them, and their sacrifices made to secure and support their first one, show how deeply religious they were, and how ardently they desired to have their children reared in the faith of the gospel." p. 13.

Mr. Huddle fixes the time of the removal of the Lutherans from Germanna (the settlement of the colony of 1714) to what was afterwards Madison County, as about 1725. As he states, "their eight years of affliction" dated from 1717. During that period, they must have worked out their passage money, as was common among emigrants, and then have felt free to settle in a more congenial place. "They sought out and found a better country on the banks of the Robinson River and White Oak Run in Madison (then Spottsylvania) County, near the eastern base of the Blue Ridge." "They moved up the Rapidan River, crossing it, according to tradition below Madison Mills, at the old German ford, and settled on both sides of Robinson River and White Oak Run." p. 10. An examination of the map of Virginia will show about the location of this colony. The fact that Christopher Zimmerman's will was probated in Orange Co., seems to show that he was settled near the Rapidan River, the boundary line between the counties. He places himself in his will in St. Mark's Parish, which parish extended into Culpeper and Madison Counties. "This colony transplanted to more congenial soil * * * became for the time being, the advance guard of civilization. There was no white settlement between them and the Pacific ocean." p. 12. Mr. Huddle gives the names of the first Germans to patent lands in the region, and to found the little church since known as Hebron Church, and among them is that of Christopher Zimmerman, our ancestor.

According to Schuricht, it was in Madison County that the family name Zimmerman was changed to Carpenter, the exception to this being the immediate descendants of Christopher, who retained the original German form of the name.*

*"The family Zimmerman at Madison changed its name to Carpenter, and several of its members emigrated further west, and to Kentucky. The road they traveled was the same which was afterwards chosen for the con-

The longest pastorate in the history of Hebron Church was that of Rev. William Carpenter (Zimmerman). Mr. Huddle gives a long and interesting account of his services both to his church, and to his country in the War of the Revolution.

A few scattered notes, and the will of Christopher Zimmerman give the only information that the writer can gather of him, and of the next two generations. The records show that farming was their chief pursuit and they seem to have prospered in the land of their adoption. "Zimmerman ordered for surveyor of a road. On petition of Michael Chew to have the road Cleared from Mr. John Lightfoot's Plantation unto Germanna road and to have more hands added to their gang with another overseer is granted. And ordered that Christopher Zimmerman be Overseer thereof, and that Joseph Bloodworth, Joseph ffox, ffederick Cobler, David Jones, Joseph Cooper, and Conrad Amborgud? and their tithables be added to aid and assist the said—and his gang to clear the same." Order book, 1724, p. 316, Spottsylvania County. "Indenture between Christopher Zimmerman, Cooper and Frederick Cobler, Planter, 1729, Land in St. George's Parish." A. 380. Dec. 1st, 1730, Christopher Zimmerman sells land in St. George's Parish, Spottsylvania County to William Johnson. "Said parcel or tract of land being granted to Christopher Zimmerman by patent bearing Date the twenty-Eighth Day of September, one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight." B. Deeds. 110.

Christopher¹ Zimmerman married **Elizabeth** ———, and died in 1748, leaving the following heirs:

Andrew,²—probably the Andrew Zimmerman mentioned in Mr. Huddle's book as one of the trustees of Hebron Church.

John,² married Usley ———.

Barbara,² married ——— Zeigler.

Frederick,² married Sarah ———.

Christopher.²

Elizabeth.²

Katharine,² married William Slaughter of Culpeper, son of Robert, of Robert.

struction of the stage road to the Kanawha and Ohio Rivers, and it traversed the territory of the famous Sulphur Springs (White Sulphur). One Nathan Carpenter came there in 1774 and selected the charming valley of White Sulphur Springs for his home. It was patented to him, under what is called a 'Corn Right' but a band of marauding Indians forced him and other settlers to retreat to a stockade fort where the town of Covington now stands, and during a fight with the savages, he was killed. His wife, Kate, and their children took refuge for some time in a neighboring mountain overlooking the springs from the south, which ever since has been called 'Kate's Mountain.'—German Element in Va., Schuricht, p. 92.

Frederick² Zimmerman married **Sarah** ———, and while doubtless he had other children, only the record of his son, Reuben, can be found. The loss of certain county records at Culpeper Court House, makes it impossible to know much of his career or of the number of his descendants. That he prospered can be inferred from the few notes found. "Charles Carter, Esquire and William Underwood convey to Frederick Zimmerman, 322 acres in Culpeper County, April 18, 1765." E. 97. In 1768 he bought part of a tract called Mattaponi belonging to the Fairfax estate and March 15, 1779, conveyed said tract to his son, Reuben, for £600. "Administration Granted Frederick Zimmerman on the estate of John Thornton. Dec. Whereupon he with John Prier and Lewis Willis, his securities, Entered into Bond in the sum of Fifty Thousand pounds, currnt Money." Order Book, 1774-85.* The loss of his will precludes knowledge of the date of his death, but according to tradition he was buried near Stevensburg, Culpeper County, on the place where he settled.

Major Reuben³ Zimmerman, son of Frederick² Zimmerman and Sarah, his wife, was, it is inferred, born on this same estate near Stevensburg. Exact date unknown. With regard to the burial place of Frederick² Zimmerman and the birth place of Reuben³ Zimmerman, the writer gives only the results of family tradition. Not only does this record suffer by reason of the loss of books at Culpeper Court House, Va., but the burning during the Civil War, of the little Episcopal church at Stevensburg, occasioned the loss of the parish records, and of this little church family tradition says that Reuben³ Zimmerman was long an active member. Transition from the Lutheran faith to that of the Church of England, must have been easy for several generations of these Germans. The Rev. Philip Slaughter in his History of St. Mark's Parish recounts the interchange of courtesies between the Lutherans and Episcopalians. That the Lutherans when they had no minister of their own would come to Buck Run Episcopal church in Culpeper, and that the Rev. Mr. Carpenter (Zimmerman) used to baptise and perform other ministerial offices for the Episcopalians of Madison when they had no minister.

Reuben³ Zimmerman seems to have been a public spirited citizen and doubtless he earned the title of "Major" from

*This was copied by the writer from the Order Book in Spottsylvania County but the sum mentioned is so excessive that no doubt a mistake was made by the clerk in copying from the original deed.

connection with the militia. By this title he is mentioned in court records of him following his death. He lived near Stevensburg, of which little town he was a trustee.

"At a court held for Culpeper County, Sept. 21, 1801. This indenture of bargain and sale from Mordecai Barbour, Gabriel Long, Hugh McKellup and Reuben Zimmerman, Trustees of the Town of Stevensburg, to Harry Taliaferro was acknowledged and ordered to be recorded." Deeds, W. p. 206. He was also a trustee of the Stevensburg Academy, as the following shows. "That French Strother, John Strode, Robert Slaughter Jr., Charles Carter, David Jameson, Reuben Zimmerman, William Gray, Gabriel Long, Robert Latham, William C. Williams, and Mordecai Barbour, Gentlemen, be and they are hereby constituted and appointed a body politic and corporate by the name of the Trustees of Stevensburg Academy and by that name shall have perpetual succession and a common seal etc., etc." Jan'y 15th, 1799. Va. Statutes, Vol. 15. This so called town in 1801, is now a straggling village, and the Academy is no more.

Major Reuben³ Zimmerman married **Mary Catlett** (see Catlett) widow of Dr. Lawrence Yates, about 1790. Reuben and Mary, his wife, sign deed in 1791. He died 1811, his wife, 1816. The inventory of the property shows that he was possessed of a good estate, but the loss of his will precludes further knowledge.

Major Reuben³ Zimmerman and Mary Catlett Yates left the following children:

William Gibson,⁴ married Matilda Somersall. (See Somersall.)

George Washington,⁴ married Margaret Briscoe Smith of Maryland in 1816.

Sarah Taliaferro,⁴ married William Jackson Fielder of Virginia.

James Madison,⁴ married Zulina Bainbridge, Lincoln Co., Missouri.

Mary,⁴ married William Twisdell.*

Elizabeth,⁴ married Benjamin Twisdell in 1826.

These descendants mostly followed the tide of immigration to the west. William⁴ Gibson Zimmerman and his sister,

*The following concerning the Twisdells is taken from a communication to the genealogical department of the Baltimore Sun, Sept. 9, 1906, "Twisdell is not a German name, but English, and at one time was Teasdale. I think William Twisdale was a brother of General Twisdale of Teasdale of England. Opposite Fredericksburg, on the east side of the Rappahannock River, within the limits of Stafford, was the old Washington farm. At one time it was the property of Rev. Thomas Teasdale. It has long since disappeared. It was owned by the Washingtons as early as 1743."

Sarah⁴ Taliaferro, the wife of William Jackson Fielder were the sole representatives of the family left in Culpeper County.

Sarah Fielder, and her only child Geraldine, wife of Francis Thornton Lightfoot, deserve more than a passing mention. Both mother and daughter lived to a good old age and were well known and respected in Culpeper County where they passed their quiet lives. Geraldine Lightfoot died in 1896, at the age of 84 years. The local paper says of her that, "she was the oldest citizen of this place, and the oldest member of St. Stephen's Church. Prior to her death she could relate with accuracy events that happened half a century or more ago, one especially, that of being present at a ball given in honor of Lafayette. Mrs Lightfoot was unusually honored and respected by all who knew her, for her noble life and womanly virtues." The writer was indebted to her a year before her death for genealogical facts embodied in this family record, and the graceful handwriting and clear style of her letters would have done credit to a far younger woman. She and her mother were genuine "women of the old school." Geraldine Lightfoot's only son was Colonel Charles Edward Lightfoot of the Confederate Service of whom it was written, "He was a gallant soldier during the war, and in peace, a knightly, courteous gentleman."

William Gibson⁴ Zimmerman was born in Stevensburg. Exact date unknown. For a while he kept the village inn there and his maturer years were spent in school teaching. He was married to **Matilda Somersall** by the Reverend Mr. Woodville at the parish church of Stevensburg, April 12th, 1812. Of this church he was a lay reader. Several years before his death in 1840, he removed to Madison Co., Va., where he was also engaged in teaching. He left no will.

The descendants of William⁴ Gibson Zimmerman, and Matilda Somersall, his wife, were:

Reuben,⁵ married Mary Ann Elizabeth Waters. (See Waters).

John William,⁵ married 1st Harriet Graves of Maryland; 2nd Eliza Jane Taylor of Maryland.

Mary,⁵ married Philip P. Nalle of Culpeper County, Virginia (without issue).

Simon Bolivar,⁵ married Anne London of Pittsboro, North Carolina (without issue).

Lawrence Taliaferro.⁵

Alice Catlett.⁵

Zerelda.⁵

Reuben⁵ Zimmerman, born at Stevensburg, Va., 1813, when



JOHN WILLIAM ZIMMERMAN

a young man left his country home at the invitation of Colonel Daniel Bryan, then Postmaster and honored citizen of Alexandria, Va., was made his clerk and resided in his family. There he met his wife, **Mary A. E. Waters**, (see Waters) whom he married March 1st, 1836. He lived a prosperous, honored life as a successful business man, dying in the prime of life, May 31st, 1859. His life long friend and brother-in-law, Philip P. Nalle of Culpeper Co., Va., says of him in a personal letter (written at the age of 85 years) "no one stood higher in the esteem of the people of Alexandria than Reuben Zimmerman; his manner of life was unexceptionable, modest, upright, honest, truthful, gentle, he was truly a model man. I do not exaggerate his virtues in what I have said. He was worthy of all that I say of him, and you have a right to be proud of such a father."

The following are the descendants of Reuben⁵ Zimmerman and Mary A. E. Waters, his wife:

Elizabeth,⁶ (died young).

Mary Robbins,⁶ married James Waters Allison, Richmond, Va.

William Waters,⁶ married Virginia Pegram Johnson, Richmond, Va.

Adelaide,⁶ married William Conard, Philadelphia, Penn.

Benjamin Waters,⁶ married Ellen Powell Carr, St. Louis, Mo.

Dorothy Edmonstone,⁶ married Robert Wright Allen, Pay Inspector, U. S. Navy.

Alice Catlett,⁶ married Henry Chiles Carr, St. Louis, Mo.

Reuben,⁶ (died young).

Thomas Waters,⁶ (died young).

William Waters⁶ Zimmerman, born Jan. 21st, 1840, died Aug. 19th, 1892, was an officer in the Confederate Service during the Civil War. Volunteering in the 17th Va. Regiment, at the first call by the state for troops, he was throughout the war with that regiment first as sergeant of a company, and shortly afterwards as Adjutant of the Regiment. Brave and always ready, he passed through the greatest battles of the War, unhurt, and was mustered out of service at Johnson's Island, where he was imprisoned after the surrender of Lee's Army.

John William⁵ Zimmerman, second son of William Gibson⁴ Zimmerman and Matilda Somersall, was born in Stevensburg, Apr. 22nd, 1817. In early life he moved to Baltimore, Md., where, first as a merchant and later as member of Baltimore Stock Board, he led a prosperous life. Though tied down to the exigencies of money making for a large family, his talent for painting (probably a heritage from his German ancestry) led him to devote many hours to the brush, and some excellent

portraits in oil, taken by him, remain in his family. He was also a profound student of Shakespeare, and he collected a valuable library of the many editions of Shakespeare's works, and books pertaining thereto.

John William⁵ Zimmerman married first **Harriet Graves**, daughter of Robert and Lydia Graves of Maryland. Date of marriage, Jan. 27th, 1841. She died in 1853, leaving six children, as follows:

Roberta Virginia,⁶ married Dr. Edward Owens of Maryland.
 William Somersall,⁶ married Gertrude Goldsborough of Maryland.
 Katherine,⁶ married 1st Edwin Cugle of Maryland; 2nd Charles Cugle.
 Alice Ida.⁶
 Reuben Gibson,⁶ married Laura Thomas of Maryland.

John William⁵ Zimmerman married second, May 1st, 1855, **Eliza Jane Taylor**, daughter of John and Ann (Miller) Taylor of Maryland. He died in Baltimore, Md., in January, 1872, and is there buried. Their children are:

Elizabeth Taliaferro,⁶ married Walter Randolph Crabbe, Virginia.
 Anne London,⁶ married Dr. Benjamin Rush Logie, West Virginia.
 Helen Miller,⁶ married Charles Cowles Tucker of Washington, D. C.
 John William,⁶ married 1st Juanita Padilla de Storer of Porto Rico; 2nd Elizabeth Slater of Michigan.

WILL OF CHRISTOPHER ZIMMERMAN.

In the name of God, Amen. I, Christopher Zimmerman of St. Mark's Parish in the County of Orange, being of perfect mind & Memory, Thanks be given the Almighty God therefor, do make this, my last will & Testament in Manner & Form following, that is to say, first I recommend my soul to Almighty God, who gave it hoping thro' the Merits of my Dear Redeemer, Jesus Christ, to obtain Forgiveness for all my Sins & as to my Body to be decently buried at the Discretion of my Executors hereafter mentioned, and touching the Temporal Estate as it has been the pleasure of God to bestow upon me. I dispose of it in Manner following, viz.: first, my desire is that my just debts & funeral expenses be paid.

Item.—I give unto my Son, John Zimmerman, five Pounds Current Money of Virginia to be paid by Exers out of my outlying Debts & Personal Estate.

Item.—I give to my Daughter, Barbara Zeigler, my second best Horse that I have at my death.

Item.—I give & Bequeath to my Son, Frederick Zimmerman, the plantation whereon he now liveth containing two hundred Acres lying in the Fork of Stony Run, to him and his heirs forever.

Item.—I give and Bequeath to my Son, Christopher Zimmerman, the Plantation whereon I now live, containing two hundred Acres of Land, Part of a Patent of four hundred Acres of Land, after the decease or marriage of my wife, Eliza^a Zimmerman, to him and his heirs forever.

Item.—I give and bequeath to my Daughter, Elizabeth Zimmerman, the remaining Part of the Tract of Land, whereon, I now live, being part of a



ELIZA JANE TAYLOR

Patent of four hundred and forty Acres also to her and her Heirs forever, also one Bed commonly called "Betty's Bed" with the Furniture, also one oval Table and six black walnut Chairs.

Item.—I give and bequeath to my Daughter, Katherine Zimmerman, four hundred Acres of Land lying in Augusta County on the West Side of the Blue Ridge, to her and her Heirs forever. Also one Bed and Furniture commonly called "Katherine's Bed and Furniture," also one oval Table and six black walnut Chairs, and also one Sorrel pacing Horse branded on the near Buttock and Shoulder thus, LyZ.

Item.—I give all my Personal Estate not yet given, to be equally divided between my loving Wife, Eliz^a Zimmerman and my six Children, and, I do constitute and appoint my loving Wife, Eliz^a Zimmerman and my two Sons, John and Frederick Zimmerman, Executors & Administrators of this my last will and testament revoking all former wills heretofore by me made, ratifying and confirming this to be my last will and testament in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 30th day of November, 1748.

Christopher Zimmerman.
Probate March 23rd, 1748|9.

Witnesses
Fras^s Tyler.
Francis Strother.
his
Frederick X Cobler.
mark

ZIMMERMAN, WATERS

AND

ALLIED FAMILIES

BY

DOROTHY EDMONSTONE ZIMMERMAN ALLEN

MEMBER OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF COLONIAL DAMES OF
AMERICA, THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
AND THE ASSOCIATION FOR PRESERVATION OF VIRGINIA
ANTIQUITIES.

THIS FAMILY RECORD

IS DEDICATED

**TO THE TWO FRIENDS TO WHOSE AID AND
ENCOURAGEMENT I OWE ITS SUCCESS: MY NIECE**

MRS. DOROTHY ALLISON MOORE

AND

MISS MARY KINGSBURY TALCOTT.

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PREFACE.

In presenting this family record to its contributors I am actuated by a desire to do equal justice to both sides of my own family, and in that way to give all possible information to those who trace their descent from the ancestors on my father's side, or to those who trace ancestry from the lines on my mother's side. Each ancestral line is brought down to my own parents as a sort of handy reference for collateral branches. My father's record is less complete than my mother's because of adverse circumstances. To trace our German ancestry in Europe is almost a physical impossibility, and, as will be seen on perusal of the book, the loss of records in several Virginia counties has greatly hampered research. Having no intention of copyrighting the book, I have borrowed freely from many authorities, so as to place before the family, information they may never be inclined to search out for themselves. But, combined with what is copied is much original research, the result of visits to county seats and the examination of wills and deeds. I have tried to avoid the dry details of genealogy by giving all facts concerning ancestors it was possible to gather. Also I give copies of many wills, for not only do wills give an insight into character, but I know of nothing else that makes a far away ancestor seem so real, so tangible, as to read this expression of his last wishes.

W. S. Mills, in his "Foundations of Genealogy," expresses well the sentiment that has been mine in thought, since the beginning of this work. "Every descendant of a worthy family whether his ancestry be prominent or obscure, should find in the story of his lineage, incentives to high resolve."

Dorothy Edmonstone Zimmerman Allen.